Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 SS-15 NSC-05 ES-01

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4296

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: EAIR, IT

SUBJECT: CIVAIR - SEABOARD WINTER SCHEDULE

REF: A. ROME 16571 B. ROME 16238 C. ROME 15753

- 1. DESPITE DAILY PRODDING BY MINISTRY FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MFA) AND EMBASSY, CIVILAVIA HAS "NOT YET REACHED A DECISION" ON EMBASSY'S REQUEST (FIRST MADE IN NOTE VERBALE OF OCTOBER 30) FOR PROVISIONAL APPLICATION OF SEABOARD WINTER SCHEDULE PENDING CONSULTATIONS. COLLINI'S APPROACH TO CIVILAVIA (REFTEL A) HAS NOT BORNE FRUIT BECAUSE HE AND MINISTER TRANSPORT MARTINELLI ARE OUT OF THE COUNTRY ALL WEEK ON OFFICIAL BUSINESS; CIVILAVIA CAN THEREFORE SAFELY DAWDLE UNTIL HE RETURNS.
- 2. EMBASSY NOW DOUBTS SINCERITY OF ALITALIA REP LECESE'S STATEMENT REPORTED PARA 3 REFTEL B. HE WAS AT THAT TIME SEEKING EMBOFFS COOPERATION IN RESOLVING SUMMER 1976 CAPACITY DISPUTE WITH TWA; ALITALIA/TWA STILL AT IMPASSE ON SUMMER 1976 CAPACITY. ALITALIA MAY BE LINKING SEABOARD WINTER SCHEDULE TO 9176 SUMMER CAPACITY IN EFFORT RESOLVE LATTER ON ALITALIA TERMS.

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3. GIVEN CLOSE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ALITALIA AND CIVILAVIA,

USG PRESSURE ON ALITALIA MAY BE ONLY WAY TO SECURE FAVORABLE CIVILAVIA RESPONSE WITHIN REASONABLE TIME. ANY DELAY BENE-FITS ALITALIA'S CARGO SERVICE. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S REACTION TO SUGGESTION MADE PARA 3 REFTEL C. WE REALIZE THIS WOULD BE PLAYING TOUGH GAME, BUT WITHOUT THIS OR OTHER LEVERAGE ON ALITALIA WE MAY WAIT A VERY LONG TIME INDEED FOR A RESPONSE BY CIVILAVIA.

4. NEITHER MFA NOR CIVILAVIA HAS YET CITED LEGAL BASIS FOR CIVILAVIA ACTION LIMITING SEABOARD TO USE OF DC-8/63F ON MILAN-NEW YORK ROUTE. BEAUDRY

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